



'Together we strive for excellence, inspired by the joy of the Gospel'.

Non-Uniform Day - Thursday 25th June

StellaFest 26

This year, we have some incredible stalls lined up, and we're already starting to gather donations and prizes for our raffle. If you know of any local businesses that would be interested in donating a prize, please let us know by getting in touch with the office. Your help is hugely appreciated!

To kick off our fundraising, rather than waiting until Wednesday 8th July for donations, we will instead, celebrate our chosen colours with a non-uniform day on **Thursday 25th June**, where we ask each child, if possible, to bring in their prize for our tombola stall. Acceptable prizes include sweets, chocolate items (think delicious bars or tempting boxes), toiletries, gift sets, jewellery, good condition unused toys, books, and all types of drinks, whether they're bubbly or not! Additionally, each year group will dress in their assigned colours!

Each class has been assigned a specific colour for their tombola prize as well as their colours for non-uniform day, here's the breakdown again below:

Nursery - Purple

Reception – Blue

Year 1 - Yellow

Year 2 - White or Black

Year 3 - Red

Year 4 - Pink

Year 5 - Orange

Year 6 - Green

Staff - same as your class

STELLA FEST

If you're feeling creative, your child can always wrap their gift in coloured tissue or wrapping paper if a specific colour isn't available. Your donations, no matter the size, will collectively make a huge difference in our StellaFest success, so thank you for all your support!

TeamStella

Stella Radio

The Wednesday Word Stella FM is once again up and running. Thanks to Miss Hall and Mr Patterson along with our Year 6 hosts, Logan and Molly as they delivered a reflection on this coming weeks Gospel. Please click on the image to take the opportunity to join us in prayer and reflection. It's the perfect opportunity to take a moment for yourself.



"To have courage for whatever comes in life – everything lies in that."
St Teresa of Avila



Holy Communion

If you wish to purchase your child's image of them in their Communion outfits, all orders will need to be returned to the office by 9 a.m. on Monday 22nd June.



St Oswald's Peter Rabbit

We're delighted to share that our Peter Rabbit sculpture, *Reach for the Stella Stars*, will be proudly displayed at St Oswald's shop in Jesmond. We'll keep you updated on when the *Tales on the Tyne* art trail begins, and we hope many of you will take the opportunity to visit our sculpture while it's on show.



Hats and Suncream

It looks like the sunshine has arrived for the next week, we would like to remind families that children may wear hats and suncream during warmer weather. Children should come to school with suncream already applied, as staff are not permitted to apply it. Please also ensure your child brings a full water bottle to school each day to stay hydrated. Pupils may now wear summer uniform, and we ask that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

[School Uniform – St Mary and St Thomas](#) [Aquinas Catholic Primary School, Blaydon](#)



STAY SAFE in the SUN

- SHOWER**
Take cool showers to bring down your body temperature
- SLAP**
Use sunscreen minimum 30 SPF to protect your skin from the harmful UV rays
- WRAP**
Wrap around sunglasses to protect the eyes
- HAT**
Wear a wide brimmed hat
- HYDRATE**
Don't wait for thirst to set in. Drink at least 8 glasses of H₂O
- EAT**
Eat foods that contain significant amounts of water
- SHADE**
Always seek shade, particularly between 11am - 4pm
- COVER UP**
Loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts & long trousers provide the best protection from the sun's harmful rays

gha
Greater Health Authority

Safeguarding Reminder

Safeguarding the children in our care is one of the school's main responsibilities, one that St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas take very seriously.

As you are already aware from previous updates, our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Craig. You can speak to him by phone, make an appointment via the school office, or catch him when he's outside greeting/saying goodbye to children, if you ever have a concern. We also have our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in school, Mrs Bennison (Assistant Headteacher/ Year 2 class teacher and senior leader), Mrs McDonald (Year 4 teacher) and Miss Foster (School Business Manager).

If you are unable to speak to Mr Craig, you can speak to Mrs Bennison or any other member of staff about your concern (s).

The school has an updated Safeguarding policy, that can be found on the school website, or paper copies can be requested from the school office.

All staff receive annual safeguarding refresher training, as well as other training throughout the year on key areas, including record keeping and reporting. Our school also has a termly visit from our Safeguarding Consultant, who completes an audit of the school's safeguarding and identifies any future improvements or training needs.

Why do parents need to know this information?

- To reassure you that we take keeping our children safe in school very seriously at St. Mary and St. Thomas Aquinas.
- It's good to remind parents/carers of the key members of staff, in case new parents did not know who they were.
- To highlight the continual work that the school puts into keeping our children safe in school.

Attendance

During celebration assembly on Friday, we have been celebrating whole class attendance and each week the class with the highest attendance will receive our Attendance Trophy, well done to Year **2** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 15th June 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception Class	98.89
Year 1	95.56
Year 2	99.62
Year 3	97.64
Year 4	90.32
Year 5	97.22
Year 6	98.02

Parents afternoon for new starters

Tuesday 23rd June - Reception open afternoon for parents of children attending Reception class this academic year 26/27.

This meeting will be in the school hall commencing at 4 p.m. and is for parents only.

Tuesday 30th June - Nursery open afternoon for parents of children attending Nursery this academic year 26/27. This meeting will be in the school hall commencing at 4 p.m. and is for parents only.

Sports Days

Please see our dates below for our annual Sports Days.

Monday 6th July - Key Stage 1 Sports Day
Gates will open at 1 p.m. for the event to start at 1.15 p.m.

Tuesday 7th July - Key stage 2 Sports Day
Gates will open at 1 p.m. for the event to start at 1.15 p.m.

Wednesday 8th July - Nursery Sports Day
This will take place in the morning with times to follow.

Year 6 Residential

Many thanks for everyone's contributions to our Year 6 residential. Final payments are now required. All payments will need to be finalised by Monday 22nd at 4.00 p.m.

Year 6 Visit to YMT

Next week, Year 6 will visit YMT alongside other Year 6 pupils from across our Diocese to celebrate the end of the academic year together.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to grow spiritually and reflect as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

Gateshead Athletics Festival

Children from across Key Stage 2 will be taking part in the Gateshead Athletics Festival.

This is a fantastic opportunity for them to challenge themselves against pupils from other schools in the area and hopefully, bring more medals back to Stella.

We wish them all the very best!



Children's Flu Spray - 20th October 2026

The Nasal Flu spray will be available to children from Reception to Year 6 from September 2026. Vaccinating your child against Flu will help protect them, their vulnerable friends and families by reducing its spread.

The flu vaccine is offered as a spray up the nose or an injection in the upper arm. (Children will be offered the injection at a community clinic).

The online consent can be accessed via any device. Please click on the following link

<https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

This will direct you to the online consent form. Our school code is **NB149052**

Please complete the consent form at the earliest opportunity.

If you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated, please complete a non-consent using the above link also.



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Spotlight Celebration

Darcey sang in 4 group songs and also sang a solo in her singing teachers summer show. She sang beautifully.



Ollie was asked to step in and play for the other Montagu team as they were two players down. With his help they got through to the semi-finals. He also bumped into Emilia who was also taking part.



Well done to Penny in Year 5 who learnt a range of lifesaving skills as part of Drowning Prevention Week!



Well done Reuben, Caleb and Maggie!! They attended their football presentation evening on Friday for the Winlaton Development team. They all received a trophy on stage and had a lovely evening with their teammates.



Mia and Euan celebrated their Great Grandad's 100th birthday. Mia even got to see his card sent from the King and Queen!



We would love to see more achievements, works of art or an event that you are proud of. Please send them to hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com

Dates for you diary

Tuesday 23rd June	Reception Parents afternoon - 4 p.m.
Friday 26th June	Year 6 visiting the YMT for the Primary Festival
Friday 26th June	Gateshead Athletics Festival
Tuesday 30th June	New Nursery Parents afternoon - 4 p.m. - Please note the change of date
Tuesday 30th June	Year 6 visiting St Thomas More
Wednesday 1st-3rd July	Year 6 Residential at Robinwood Activity Centre
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 1 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 2 nd July	BWCET Celebration of Sport for Year 5
Friday 3 rd July	Year 1 visiting The Discovery Museum
Monday 6 th July	Keystage 1 Sports Day in the afternoon
Tuesday 7 th July	Keystage 2 Sports Day in the afternoon
Wednesday 8 th July	Nursery Sports Day in the morning
Wednesday 8th July	Children's Cancer North Run
Thursday 9 th July	Year 2 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 10 th July	Year 6 and Reception Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 15 th July	StellaFest
Thursday 16 th July	School Mass (Leavers) 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers Production

Summer holiday Monday 20th July until Friday 28th August 2026
Monday 31st August - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - Staff Inset
Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Staff Inset



Amended or additional dates will be in bold